



Lesotho

Joined the Commonwealth in 1966 - visited by the Queen as Princess Elizabeth in 1947



Lesotho is a small landlocked nation in southern Africa

Pop: (2012) 2,052,000 Capital: Maseru Area: 30,355 sq km

Lesotho, until 1966 known as Basutoland, is a high, landlocked country in southern Africa. Nowhere is the land below 1,400m. Two mountain ranges, the Drakensberg and the Maluti, run from a high plateau in the north. The north-western area around the capital, Maseru, is lower and two-thirds of the population live here.

The climate is temperate with well marked seasons and is one of the few places in Africa where snow falls regularly. Large animals are rare as stock farming has destroyed their habitats but Lesotho is one of the last strongholds of the bearded vulture.

The economy is tightly linked to that of its neighbour, South Africa. Many Basutho migrate to work there. The introduction of a clothing industry has helped to diversify the economy and a ski resort in the Drakensbergs is encouraging tourism.

The Katse Dam on the Malibamat'so River is part of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project which exports water to South Africa

